



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

THE Y IN CENTRAL MARYLAND
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Senate Bill 810

Maryland Priority Out-of-School Time Program- Alterations

Budget and Taxation Committee

Testimony from the Maryland Y in Central Maryland

The Y in Central Maryland (The Y) is pleased to present this written testimony in support of Senator Alonzo Washington's Senate Bill 873, which would rename Public School Opportunity Enhancement (PSOE) to Priority Out-of-School Time Program, move the program to the Children and Youth Division of Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services and increase the funding for the program from 2.5 million to 8.5 Million Dollars in grants annually.

The impact of COVID-19 has highlighted the need for critical support made by Afterschool, Summer, and Mentoring programs. The average student lost more than half a school year of learning as a result of the pandemic. Despite this fact, Maryland remains in the bottom ten states for access to after-school programs and several state funds that directly support after-school programs are at risk, this year.

The Y is the recipient of PSOE grants totaling \$1.5 million dollars to implement after-school programs at 7 Y Community Schools in Baltimore City (Fort Worthington Elementary/ Middle School, Graceland/O'Donnell Elementary/ Middle School, Gwynns Falls Elementary School, Holabird Elementary/ Middle School, Johnston Square Elementary, Moravia Park Elementary School, Rosemont Elementary School) serving 470 Baltimore City Public school students.

The increased funding will allow organizations like the Y to serve more youth and families through Out-of-school time programming which will support the acceleration of learning, connect care givers to academic supports, and support student's social emotional learning. Additionally, moving the program to the Children and Youth Division of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services will allow a more diverse group of non-profit organizations to access funding.

We would very much welcome further conversations with the relevant legislators in Maryland's Senate and House of Delegates to review the language in the Bill to ensure that narrowing the focus of the funding to support at-risk youth does not limit the ability of organizations to support students experiencing learning lost. We are committed to working in collaboration to ensure youth and families within the State of Maryland have access to quality afterschool programs.

A charitable, cause-driven organization working for community well-being.

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